

And a new Rotary year has begun! We are now meeting in a very nice classroom at the Withlacoochee Technical College, which is refreshing and quite welcoming. The air conditioner works well, the room is clean and quiet, and the technology is easy and working. We were greeted and addressed by Sam Himmel (Citrus County Schools Superintendent), Shaunda Burdette (Director of the Education Foundation and club member), Dr. Scott Herbert (Asst. Superintendent of School Operations and club member), and David Roland (Director of WTC). This was truly an all-star cast led by our Derrick Buettner (Director of Secondary Education)! We felt welcomed and respected. Mr. Roland even had a welcome note on the WTC digital sign on Hwy 44. I think we are home at last. After opening remarks from our dignitaries, David Roland gave us a little insight into what is happening at WTC. They currently have about 400 students with an 86% placement rate and 94% licensing. The message is getting out that there is a future to be had at WTC and most classes are filled. WTC has expanded its dual enrollment opportunities as well as an E-School and Special Needs Assistance Program. The culinary department will reassemble on August 1 and begin training the students shortly after that. He thinks we should have food opportunities from them sometime in September. We can't wait!

Club News:

*Byron Brown is now the President and did a fine job at running the first meeting – Way to Go!

*Michael Dandurand has moved up to Pres. Elect.....Here we go Michael.....You're Next!

*Foundation Elections – Greg Hamilton, Paul Perregaux, and Barb Wheeler were elected

*New Members – Jared Kirby and Jennifer Duca were officially inducted, although they have been actively involved already. We are happy to have them on board and welcome their participation in the club endeavors.

*New Membership Chair -Greg Hamilton/Dianne Perkins Asst.

*Fundraiser – John Murphy thanked everyone that came out to help with the beer pouring on July 3rd. He indicated that our efforts should bring in somewhere around \$5,000. Woohoo!!!

*Club Focus – Pres. Brown indicated that he wants us to really focus our efforts on Bryant Park. John Murphy spoke to the club about the progress – we are now at the “vendor stage” and a steering committee has been formed to focus on: 1)grant dollars, 2)foundation dollars, and 3)generous individuals. This will also be supported by our fundraising and any general donations. The goal - \$500,000. We Can Do This! What or Who do you know? Talk to John.

What's Next:

July 16 – Mark Kahler, Citrus High School Principal will speak to the club

July 18 – Board meeting at 1st Presbyterian Church 12 noon

Aug 1 – Back to School Breakfast for CHS teachers-volunteers needed

????? – Wait for a Club Orientation in the planning

Thank you to Laura Grady for arranging the food for the meeting.

Happy/Sad Dollars - \$163

50/50 - \$20.50 to Tito Rubio

Theme for the Year: “Find your Passion” – get involved.